

SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY

Luke 7:1-10

A servant is healed

After Jesus finished presenting all his words among the people, he entered Capernaum. **2** A centurion had a servant who was very important to him, but the servant was ill and about to die. **3** When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to Jesus to ask him to come and heal his servant. **4** When they came to Jesus, they earnestly pleaded with Jesus. “He deserves to have you do this for him,” they said. **5** “He loves our people and he built our synagogue for us.”

6 Jesus went with them. He had almost reached the house when the centurion sent friends to say to Jesus, “Lord, don’t be bothered. I don’t deserve to have you come under my roof. **7** In fact, I didn’t even consider myself worthy to come to you. Just say the word and my servant will be healed. **8** I’m also a man appointed under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and the servant does it.”

9 When Jesus heard these words, he was impressed with the centurion. He turned to the crowd following him and said, “I tell you, even in Israel I haven’t found faith like this.” **10** When the centurion’s friends returned to his house, they found the servant restored to health.

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Gift of Video

Sacla’ Stage a Surprise Opera in a School Lunch Hall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNgCM7zp30M>

THE HAND THAT STEADIES THE PLATE

- <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/the-hand-that-steadies-the-plate>

CHRIST HAS NO BODY

— <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/christ-has-no-body>

MEDITATION

“Gorgeous Compassion”

Jesus traveled with his disciples and a large crowd of people gathered around him.

June 5, 2016 — “Gorgeous Compassion”

St. Stephen UCC/Louisville, KY/The Rev. Jim Harper III

As he went into a town he saw a woman who was very sad because her son had died.

"When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Don't cry.'"

Jesus does not say this because there is anything wrong with crying.

In fact, crying can often make us feel better — instead Jesus was going to enter into this Woman's messy life and make it gorgeous via an act of COMPASSION.

The lesson of this story is that Jesus felt COMPASSION for the woman — and then he entered into the mess, in a gorgeous way.

Jesus enters into the world in the middle of a mess — Jesus enters into our worlds in the middle of our messes — we enter into other people's messy lives as the hands, the feet, the eyes, — as the body of Christ, when we have COMPASSION for them, in their mess.

COMPASSION is a big word that means we feel another person's pain and sadness and then we want to do something to ease or erase that pain and sadness.

Com-pas-sion [kuhm-pash-uhn]

noun : a feeling of deep sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.



- **COMPASSION is a good thing.**
- **COMPASSION is a gorgeous thing.**
- **I want to go a step further and say that COMPASSION is a Godly thing!**

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God so loved the world and God had COMPASSION for the world that God gave the world Christ.

Christ was a Reconciler, a Role-model, and a Real tangible example of GORGEOUS COMPASSION.

COMPASSION is a Godly thing!

When we see every other person in our lives — the stranger, the strange, our family members, our friends, the next-door-neighbor, and even our enemies — [when we see them] as created in the GORGEOUS image of God — then we can respond to their deepest needs with GORGEOUS COMPASSION.



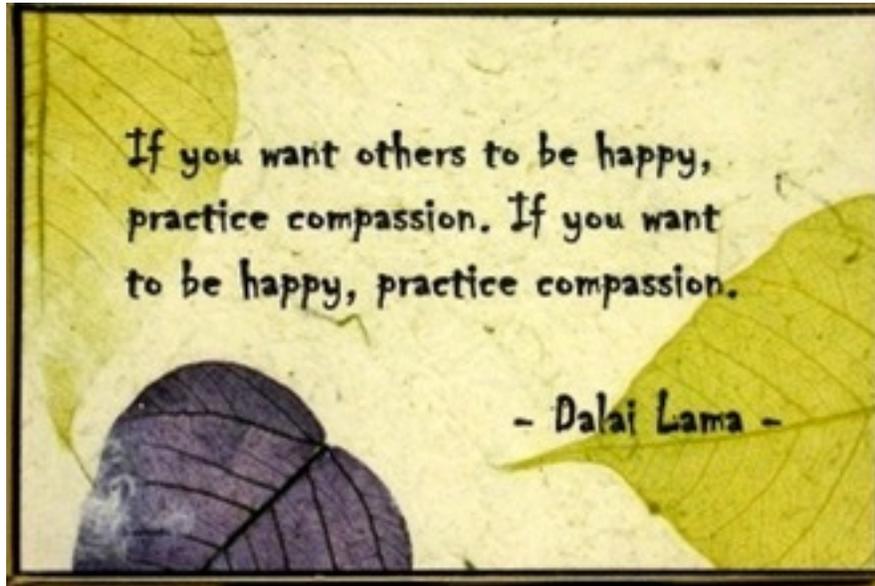
Oh, please, make this big, beautiful phrase – GORGEOUS COMPASSION, a part of your life.

In fact, if GORGEOUS COMPASSION is a part of your life, daily; then your life can be gorgeous.

We have heard the saying, “*a happy wife, a happy life!*”; well, I want to tell you the secrete to a gorgeous life is to practice COMPASSION.

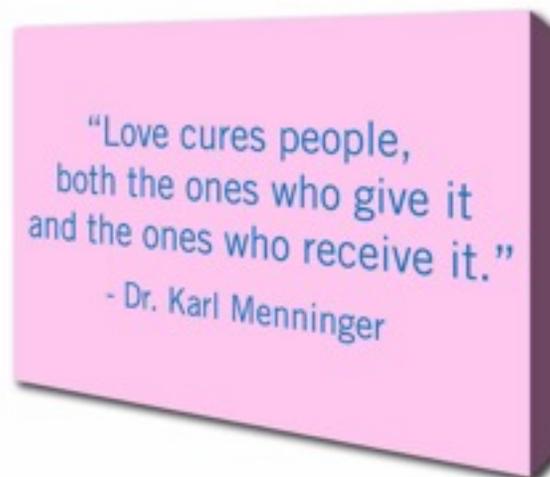
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If you are depressed — practice COMPASSION!
If you are lonely — practice COMPASSION!
If you are crying — practice COMPASSION!
If you are searching for meaning — practice COMPASSION!
If you are trying to find yourself — practice COMPASSION!
If you are trying to discover who God is — practice COMPASSION!
If you are trying to follow Jesus' teaching and model his life — practice COMPASSION!

These are the little things that we can do that make a difference in someone else's life and in our own life too.



June 5, 2016 — “Gorgeous Compassion”

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You can be Jesus to someone; and in-turn you can find your place and purpose in life.

God is calling each of us to practice GORGEOUS COMPASSION and become the hands, feet, arms, heart — the body of Christ.



“AT THE END OF THIS DAY, THE WORLD WILL EITHER BE A MORE OR LESS KIND, COMPASSIONATE, AND LOVING PLACE BECAUSE OF OUR PRESENCE — YOUR MOVE — MY MOVE — OUR MOVE.

As the world pauses to mourn and remember Mohammad Ali, he summed up our theme for this morning's spiritual reflection with this quote:

“Service to others is the rent you [and I] pay for your room here on earth!”



Let's all catch up on our RENT this week and see the world around us change gorgeously!

June 5, 2016 — “Gorgeous Compassion”

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Oh, please, make this big, beautiful phrase – GORGEOUS COMPASSION, an active and integral part of your life — and then see the world around us change gorgeously!

Amen.

Amen.

Sources:

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Children's Sermons/Luke 7:11-17/Compassion by Lois Parker Edstrom

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible

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JLHIIIFILES, Louisville, Kentucky, 2016.

SONG OF PRAYER... LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING (1&4)



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord of love and light,
shine into our lives and bring your love into our souls.
Remind us of the amazing ways you have loved us,
even when we turned our backs on you.

**Open our hearts to receive your loving spirit.
Open our minds to receive your wisdom.
Open our hands to show others your loving compassion.**

Lord of love and light,
we hold in our hearts those around us who feel unloved.
We bring them to you for you to shine your love into their lives.
**We hold in our minds those who are overwhelmed
by their needs and difficulties.**

We hold in our hands your loving compassion to give them.

Lord of love and light,
there are people and places that are dark
and in the dark about your love.

**Shine forth your light and love
in their lives and in those places.**

There are people and places that have closed their minds to you,
to others, to new and fresh ideas.

**Shine forth your light and love to open their minds to you,
to others, to new and fresh ideas.**

There are people and places that need our hands
reaching out to them with your loving compassion.

**May our reaching out to them with your love and compassion,
shine forth your light and love. Amen.**

~ written by Rev Abi, and posted on Rev Abi's Long and Winding Road blog. <http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.ca/>

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer

EVA, Vocalist/Albert Hay Malotte, composer